

4

393 WALNUT STREET  
Brookline  
Massachusetts

October 28, 1937

The Children's Hospital  
31 State Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sirs:

I am making a gift to you of one-half (1/2) of my title and interest in the first serial rights to a literary work entitled "Lisa Vale" subject to the contract hereafter referred to and one-half (1/2) my rights under a contract with The American Magazine concerning the first serial rights to said literary work and enclose herewith instrument making such conveyance and assignment of same.

Houghton Mifflin Company, who is to receive the payments under this contract, has agreed to transfer to you the amounts to which you are entitled under this conveyance.

This gift is made for the enlargement of the "Anne and Olivia Prouty" ward in accordance with the plans suggested by Dr. Richard M. Smith and Dr. Kenneth D. Blackfan in conversation with Mr. Prouty and with me.

I hope this purpose may meet your approval.

Will you kindly indicate your acceptance of this gift.

Very truly yours,

*Olive H. Prouty*

(Mrs. Lewis I. Prouty)

C O P Y

395 Walnut Street  
Brookline 46, Mass.  
December 27, 1949

Mr. J. W. Farley  
45 Milk Street  
Boston 9, Massachusetts

Dear Mike:

I received a letter from you last July suggesting I make another contribution to the Children's Hospital. And here is my response - a pledge of two thousand dollars - a check for a thousand of which I enclose in this letter. The next thousand I will send next year. This will make my contribution to the Medical Center Campaign twenty thousand dollars in all.

In your July letter you said you hoped we might meet and talk things over. I replied that I hoped so too, sometime in the fall when I returned to town, for I had something I wanted to speak to you about before making another contribution. But perhaps I can write you about it just as well.

It is in regard to the so-called Prouty Ward in the present hospital. I am wondering what it will amount to as a memorial in the new Medical Center. I doubt if you know it as the Prouty Ward. I do not remember that we have ever referred to it in conversation.

Its history is this. In 1923 and 1929 my husband and I made a gift of \$20,000- to the Children's Hospital in memory of our two children. This was done at Dr. Richard Smith's suggestion, and was given as a fund to Ward One, which at that time badly needed repainting, refinishing and redecorating. A bronze tablet was placed over the door and the ward was named the Prouty Ward. From time to time I added to the fund from the earnings from my writing and the donations now total \$33,428. This fund was to be used solely for the benefit of the Prouty Ward and was to be kept by the hospital as a separate account. The interest that accrued was to be added to the principal unless used on improvements in the ward.

I took much personal interest in the ward, visiting it frequently, installing new beds, curtains, partitions, new furniture and hangings in the sunporch, etc. as required. Miss Smith, who I came to know well and admired and Dr. Richard Smith told me what was needed and also the head nurse of the ward and the director of the hospital gave me their ideas on how the ward could be made more efficient and more attractive for the children. I gradually came to feel much personal pride in the ward and a sense of personal responsibility for its appearance.

Several years ago, at Dr. Smith's suggestion, Ward Two (just across the hall from Ward One) was combined with the Prouty Ward and the Metabolism Department occupied it, and still does. Both wards were painted alike, furnished alike as nearly as possible, and both sunporches were redecorated with gay chintzes. The personal interest I took in the refurnishing and rehabilitating fostered and steadily increased my interest in the Children's Hospital.

But my interest in the ward has lagged of late. I haven't visited it since I received the impression that it was against the present principle of the hospital that any one ward should excel another in appearance, even though a special fund had been donated for its appearance. I agree heartily that the efficiency and the care given patients should be uniform, but I regret discouraging expressions of personal interest

in an endowed ward by way of making it more attractive, though of course any suggested improvement by the donor should first be approved by the hospital authorities. However, this is a minor point and is not the reason for this already too long letter.

My donations to the hospital, including the fund for the Prouty Ward and to the Campaign, now amount to approximately \$53,000. Is this enough to justify a similar Prouty Ward in the new Medical Center? Probably not. What will become of the Prouty Ward fund that remains? It is still considerable, for the expense of the refurnishing and moving of the Metabolism Department was not great. The estimated cost was told me, but I do not recall the exact figure. Shall I have anything to say about the disposition of the Prouty Ward fund now that the Prouty Ward is to be obliterated? These are questions I would like to talk over with you. My mind has been dwelling on them for some time now. I feel sorry to have the identity of the Prouty Ward and the memorial to my children wiped out.

I haven't been an active trustee of late. But I have tried to attend the few meetings to which the whole board is asked. I am still deeply interested in the Campaign, as my pledge will tell you. I hope and believe the "Letter Campaign" for another million, now in full swing, will be crowned with success.

My best wishes to you personally for a happy and healthy nineteen fifty and kindest regards to both you and Mrs. Farley.

Sincerely,

Olive Higgins Prouty

(Mrs. Lewis I. Prouty)

**NUTTER, McCLENNEN & FISH**

TELEPHONE HANCOCK 6-7800  
CABLE ADDRESS, DUNTER, BOSTON

ALFRED L. FISH  
JOHN E. PEAKES  
HAROLD T. DAVIS  
BENJAMIN A. TRUSTMAN  
CHARLES B. NEWHALL  
EARL JOHNSON  
ROBERT W. MESERVE  
ROBERT VANCE BROWN  
LEWIS H. PARKS  
JOHN J. DELANEY, JR.

JACOB J. KAPLAN  
GEORGE P. DAVIS  
ARTHUR E. WHITTEMORE  
E. CURTISS MOWER  
ROGER E. ELA  
JOHN D. HERRIAM  
LEONARD KAPLAN  
FREDERICK S. LANE  
WILLIAM SHELHERDINE, JR.  
IRVING J. HELMAN

HENRY B. COLEMAN  
JOSEPH J. GEEHERN  
JOHN R. HALLY  
NATHANIEL P. RUTTER  
EDWARD C. MENDLER, JR.  
WILLIAM B. GRANT

GRAFTON J. CORBETT, JR.  
JERRY M. BROWN  
HARRISON F. LYMAN, JR.  
BENJAMIN H. LACY  
RAYMOND R. CROSS

THE EIGHTH FLOOR  
75 FEDERAL STREET  
BOSTON 10, MASS.

May 23, 1955  
HTD/R

Mr. Parkman D. Howe  
The Children's Hospital  
45 Milk Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Howe:

I reported to Mrs. Prouty the two suggestions which you made regarding use of the Fund now designated as held for the use of the Prouty Ward and sent her the architect's plan.

She replied with enthusiasm about the suggested "Prouty Terrace", but had a number of questions regarding it, such as - would the Hospital authorities think that such a terrace would fill a real need, as distinct from being merely an afterthought to provide a substitute for the discontinued Prouty Ward? She studied the plan and wondered if the space allotted for the terrace provided opportunity for sunshine and for a certain amount of landscape gardening. Also, she questioned the permanence of such a terrace in case the hospital required enlarging. I suggest that we can best make progress if she sees the space suggested for the terrace and if you or someone in authority at the Hos-

*PAH*  
*replied*  
*May 26 - Mrs. Prouty*  
*will see her*  
*next week*

NUTTER, McCLENNEN & FISH

Mr. Parkman D. Howe

- 2 -

pital and enthusiastic for such a terrace talks with her personally about it.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harold T. Davis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Harold T. Davis

Copy to Mrs. Prouty

cc: Dr. Brugler

393 WALNUT STREET BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

July 15, 1955

*Post*  
*ed*

Mr. Parkman Howe  
45 Milk Street  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Howe:

Thank you for your letter of July 11th. I have heard from Mr. Richardson of Olmsted Brothers telling me that Mr. Whiting is out of town at present, but upon his return he will communicate with me. I will talk to him if possible before I go away for the rest of the summer on August 1st.

When the time comes to go ahead wouldn't it be wise for Mr. Whiting to consult with anyone on the staff and others who may have suggestions to make. I understand Dr. Greene is especially interested in such an outdoor space for his patients. I shall appreciate any suggestions as I want the Terrace and Garden to supply needs with which I am not familiar.

You ask if I would prefer to communicate with Mr. Whiting or have you do so. I would much prefer you to do so and also to manage the entire project with Olmsted Bros., and though of course I shall take a very personal interest in the preliminary study and in all suggestions made.

As to the bronze tablet I'll be interested to know about its location, which I suppose should be discussed soon, as it might involve the scheme of the interior decoration. The old tablet, I suppose, is not the right size or proportion and would be too undignified - or it may be mislaid. I shall be glad to have another bronze tablet made, submitting the design first for approval.

I am becoming very enthusiastic about the Terrace and Garden and only hope the project will prove to be something that will be an asset to the hospital, the staff, nurses, and children.

I have had a charming letter about it from Charlie Janeway which I greatly appreciate.

Sincerely,  
*Olive H. Proarty*

8

The Children's Hospital  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Monday, September 26, 1955

2.

Dr. Brugler gave a report on the polio situation stating that drastic measures and extraordinary efforts were required on the part of all - Staff, employees, volunteers, etc. - not only at the Hospital but also at the Hospital and Convalescent Home for Children. He also stated that the aftereffects of polio will be with us for the next two or three years. On motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: That the President on behalf of the Trustees extend a vote of appreciation to all concerned at the Hospital.

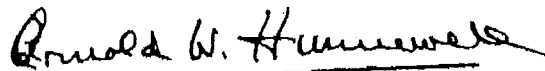
Mr. Farley then presented Mr. A. William Smith who reported on the various contacts he has made for gifts. The most recent to materialize were: 1. A \$73,000 grant from the Russell Sage Foundation, over a period of three years, to do a study of activity therapy i.e. education, play, occupation, etc. and also to do a study of the relationship between the various parts of the Hospital and between the Hospital and patient. 2. A grant of \$180,000, over three years, from the John A. Hartford Foundation, Inc. for research care in the field of blood.

Mr. Howe reported on building progress stating that the building is coming along on schedule and at the present rate will be ready for occupancy by the end of the year. The entire move cannot be made until the patients from Building #5 have been transferred, so that this building may be demolished to make way for the entrance to the new building. Because of this and weather conditions, the building will not be ready for dedication until Spring.

Mr. Howe also reported that Mrs. Prouty had given considerable thought to a Prouty Ward in the new building as the present one will be demolished. After discussion, in lieu of the present Prouty Ward, Mrs. Prouty enthusiastically accepted our suggestion for the landscaping of the Terrace and Garden of our new structure, located between the new Hospital and Harvard Medical School. This area will be used for outdoor relaxation by Staff, nurses and patients.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was

VOTED: To adjourn.

  
Arnold W. Hunnewell  
Secretary

9181  
Friday Have  
P.M. just returned  
to Brookline Sat. 30th

393 Walnut Street  
Brookline 46, Mass.  
Sept. 28 1955

Whiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marquis	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richardson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hudak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Mr. E. C. Whiting  
Olmstead Bros.  
Brookline, Mass.

My dear Mr. Whiting:

The sketch of the balustrade with your accompanying letter was forwarded to me in Whitefield. The information in your letter about the objections to changing the windows in the staff dining room into doors is disturbing to me and came as a surprise, as I thought it was settled that the doors would be installed.

Ever since I contemplated The Terrace and Garden project I have been disturbed by the fact that there was only one entrance to it - via the door by the rear elevator. As Mr. Van Horn pointed out to me the building has been designed without any thought of a Terrace and Garden on any such scale as we are considering and therefore no appropriate approaches to it were provided by the architects. When it was suggested that the three large western windows in the staff dining room could be made into doors leading out onto the wide raised portion of the terrace, it seemed to me a very happy solution and my interest in the entire project increased.

My object in contributing the Terrace and Garden isn't only for the benefit of the children, but also for the benefit of the staff and nurses, giving them an opportunity for brief periods of refreshment and relaxation in a quiet garden-spot among trees and green grass, easily accessible to them. Therefore I was much pleased that you were so strongly in favor of the doors in place of the windows, and again I was much pleased that Mr. Howe, too, so heartily approved.

You mentioned to me two of the objections that were raised. You say that it is "thought important that at all exits and entrances of the hospital someone should be stationed." This would not be necessary at the doors leading out into the terrace as the entire Terrace and Garden space is to be surrounded by a high wall and the emergency driveway can be provided with a gate. The second objection is, you say, that it is feared "that the staff and help will abuse the garden if they have access to it from the dining-room and -" I am quoting from your letter - "and that there will be casual disposal of ice cream cones and cigarette butts, necessitating frequent cleaning up of the place." If this should happen (on occasions) such cleaning



10  
COPY

Mrs. Lewis I. Prouty, 393 Walnut Street, Brookline, Massachusetts

Sept. 30, 1955

My dear Mr. Howe -

I have just returned from Whitefield, and am sending you a copy of my reply to a letter from Mr. Whiting forwarded to me there. It tells its own story.

Thank you for the sketch of the door by the elevator, and the accompanying letter waiting for me here. I was disturbed by Mr. Whiting's news about the three doors and was glad to have your reassuring word that you were trying to iron out the difficulties.

In my letter to Mr. Whiting I have stated more clearly than before my object in giving a Terrace and Garden to the hospital, and my interest in it depends largely on whether or not it can be made easily accessible to staff and hospital workers as well as to the children.

Please let me know as soon as the difficulties are overcome.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Olive H. Prouty

COPY

FROM THE OFFICE OF OLMSTED BROTHERS

October 11, 1955

Dr. Guy W. Brugler, Administrator  
The Children's Medical Center  
The Children's Hospital  
300 Longwood Avenue  
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Brugler:

Mrs. Prouty has asked me to take up with you again the matter of doors opening directly from the dining rooms to the terrace and garden court which she is so much interested in developing for the Children's Hospital. Such ready and inviting access to the outdoor unit is almost a sine qua non, if her substantial interest in the project is not to flag.

I appreciate and sympathize with her feeling in the matter; and I hope it may be found practicable to meet her wishes. I can understand the need for controlling entrances and exits in a large institution of this sort; but when the court is enclosed with high walls or fences with doors or gates that can be shut and locked, isn't the court in fact just another room of the hospital? And if so, it would seem logical to provide (or permit) as free circulation between indoor and outdoor rooms as between rooms which are all under roof. I am definitely proposing, as you know, to provide a high, nonclimbable enclosure -- probably a brick or concrete wall -- as part of the court project.

I gather from Mr. Howe (via Mrs. Prouty) that a single door onto the terrace -- in one of the three window groups -- is being favorably considered. That, I am sure, will not provide the "free circulation" which Mrs. Prouty and I both hope for as an essential element of the garden development. If one door is permissible, why not three -- one in each window group? Incidentally, I am sure that three doors would make a better looking architectural treatment of this facade than one.

To lose Mrs. Prouty's real interest in this project

Dr. Guy W. Brugler

-2-

October 11, 1955

because of limitations which may not in fact be necessary, would be more than unfortunate. I am, therefore, trespassing on a province not primarily mine in the hope of helping to clarify the situation. I will be glad to go down and talk over the problem further, if you wish.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) E. C. Whiting

Olmsted Brothers

ECW:JC

cc: Mr. Howe  
Mrs. Prouty

December 23, 1957

33. *Staphylococcus aureus*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

William

As far as the actual work is concerned, Mrs. Hovey, with whom I have compared notes briefly, suggests that it is not reasonable for the Hospital to have a gardener or two among its employees and that the work could be done under contract by a landscape firm.

The truth of the matter is, because your Garden is so generally appreciated, there should never be any problem in working out the mechanics of its future care.

393 WALNUT STREET BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

January 1, 1958

Mr. William W. Wolbach  
Children's Hospital  
45 Milk St.  
Boston 9, Mass.

My dear Mr. Wolbach:

Thank you very much for your letter, and for the thought you have already given to the Terrace and Garden and their care. It is most reassuring to me that our new president thinks the Garden is an asset and its management and future maintenance worth his attention and guidance.

You are quite right in saying the future maintenance of the Garden, and the place it will fill in the hospital, concerns me. Also you are right in adding that there are no maintenance problems at present, for I am there so much and still feel personally responsible that the Garden and its appearance (also the Terrace and its appearance) are worthy of the institution they are a part of. They are still unestablished, still "on trial," I feel, and I shall, of course, stand by till their roots have a firmer grip. But in time I should withdraw such personal attention and I shall.

I think <sup>Mrs.</sup> Miss Hovey's suggestion that in time some landscape-gardening firm take on the responsibility of the Garden and lawns, is excellent. Ever since last July I have had a young Amherst Agricultural College graduate and his crew of several men take care of <sup>the</sup> planting at a cost of about \$50 to \$75 a week. The lawns needed professional attention so I had a lawn-specialist (William Lammerse) take care of them. All the mowing and watering were done by "old John" and <sup>the</sup> hospital employees and I didn't pay for these. Probably later it will be better for one firm to do all the caretaking of lawns and garden.

Mr. William W. Wolbach

-2-

January 1, 1958

One of the problems <sup>has been</sup> ~~was~~ keeping the Garden "picked up" daily, the walks swept, cigarette stubs, etc. disposed of, and the Terrace furniture put in order each day. I was sorry that some strict rulings seemed necessary that discouraged too much use of the Garden. There were far fewer people in the Garden after the ruling, and the Terrace was usually empty.

When I decided to make the Terrace a part of my gift (as well as The Garden) I had the wide door put in, in the dining room, then added the awnings, the tables and the umbrellas, thinking the Terrace would become a part of the dining-room and that the nurses, visitors and staff would eat out there sometimes. But it didn't seem to be practical. A ruling was made that forbade any food on the Terrace. Possibly next summer, or sometime, these rulings can be changed. But perhaps not, which will be all right, of course.

I want to talk to you sometime about the possibility of establishing some sort of an endowment. But until I feel surer that the Garden is important enough to the hospital to endow, it's better to go along, year by year, as at present, I think.

I shall certainly wander over to your new house sometime. I understand George Brewster is your architect. How interesting!

Sincerely,

*Olive H. Prouty*

Olive H. Prouty

*(Mrs Lewis D. Prouty)*